

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 RANGOO 02553 230928Z  
ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SNM-02 SSO-00 /013 W  
-----014088 230932Z /21

O 230816Z AUG 77  
FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON  
TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK NIACT IMMEDIATE  
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4056  
DEA HQS WASHDC  
AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI

C O N F I D E N T I A L RANGOON 2553

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: SNAR, BM, TH  
SUBJ: TACHILEK NARCOTICS SEIZURE

REF: (A) RANGOON 2550, (B) BANGKOK 18505, (C) RANGOON 2525

1. WE NOTE THAT AUGUST 23 ISSUES OF BANGKOK POAST AND NATION BOTH CARRY FRONT-PAGE STORIES OF THE GUB'S SUCCESSFUL TACHILEK NARCOTICS SEIZURE. CITING "ANTI-NARCOTICS SOURCES", THE STORIES STATE THAT "OVER 180 KILOS" OF HEROIN WAS SEIZED. THEY SAY THAT "ON THE U.S. WHOLESALE MARKET, THE DRUGS WOULD SELL FOR U.S. \$13.8 MILLION, AND THEY WOULD BE WORTH AT LEAST 10 TIMES THAT AMOUNT AFTER BEING CUT FOR STREET SALE, THE AGENTS SAID". THE STORIES CARRY NO DATELINE, IMPLYING THEY CAME FROM BANGKOK RATHER THAN NORTH THAILAND.

2. THE BURMESE ARE SURE TO BE FURIOUS AT THE PRE-MATURE DISCLOSURE OF THIS NEWS. THEY HAD PLANNED TO INFORM THE OPENING SESSION OF THEIR PYITHU HLUTTAW (PARLIAMENT) BEFORE TELLING THE PRESS AND ATTEMPTING TO ACHIEVE MAXIMUM PUBLICITY BOTH DOMESTICALLY AND ABROAD. SINCE WE BELIEVE THAT ELEMENTS OF USG ARE THE ONLY ONES INFORMED OF THE OPERATION BY THE GUB, WE WILL INEVITABLY BE SUSPECT AS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE UNTIMELY RELEASE OF THE NEWS. NEWS OF  
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PAGE 02 RANGOO 02553 230928Z

THIS HAS BEEN CAREFULLY HELD WITHIN THIS POST AND WE ARE CERTAIN LEAK DID NOT OCCUR HERE. THIS AFTERNOON CHARGE AND EMBOFF WERE GIVEN UNPRECEDENTED TOUR OF POLICE LABORATORY COMPLEX AND WERE SHOWN THIS MASSIVE SEIZURE BY SENIOR OFFICERS INCLUDING NIB AND DSI CHIEFS (SEPTTEL). BURMESE PRIDE AND EXCITEMENT ABOUT TOMORROW'S ANNOUNCEMENT WERE EVIDENT. THEY WANT MAXIMUM PUBLICITY BUT WE WERE AGAIN

ASKED TO ENSURE NO MENTION OF THE OPERATION PRIOR TO GUB  
ANNOUNCEMENT. WHETHER OR NOT LEAK CAME FROM USG OFFICER, WE  
WILL TAKE THE BLAME WITH CONSEQUENT DAMAGE TO PROGRAM.

3. WE WOULD APPRECIATE, BY IMMEDIATE NIAC CABLE, ANY INFORMATION  
EMBASSY BANGKOK AND DEA/BRO MAY BE ABLE TO PROVIDE ON  
THE SOURCE OF THE LEAK SO THAT WE CAN RESPOND TO INEVITABLE  
BURMESE INQUIRIES PRIOR TO PLANNED CELEBRATORY DINNER SCHEDULED  
TONIGHT BY MISSION OFFICERS FOR ENTIRE GUB ANTI-NARCOTICS  
HIERARCHY.  
BARTLEY

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** NARCOTICS, DRUG SEIZURES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Number:** 1977RANGOO02553  
**Document Source:** CORE  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Reference:** 77 RANGOON 2550, 77 BANGKOK 18505, 77 RANGOON 2525  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
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**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1516009  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** TACHILEK NARCOTICS SEIZURE  
**TAGS:** SNAR, BM, TH  
**To:** BANGKOK  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009